

Amendment

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/256,647

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 16, 17, 19-35, 37 and 39 are pending in the subject application; claims 1-3, 5-9, 16, 17 and 19-39 have been examined: claims 1-3, 5-9, 16, 17, and 23 are allowed; claims 19-22, 24-35, 37, and 39 stand rejected; and claims 36 and 38 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. By the above amendments, claims 24 and 27 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 36 and 38, respectively, and claims 36 and 38 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claim 1-3, 5-9, 16, 17, and 23 and the allowability of the subject matter of claim 36 and 38.

Claims 19-22 and 24-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,205,413 to Bisdikian et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,243 to Downs et al. (claims 24 and 27 are independent, and each of the remaining rejected claims depends from one of these claims). Further, dependent claims 37 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Bisdikian and Downs and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,218 to Bland et al.

However, the Examiner indicates that claims 36 (36/24) and 38 (38/27) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 24 and 27 to include the subject matter of allowable claims 36 and 38, respectively. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw these rejections and to find amended independent claims 24 and 27 and their dependent claims allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-3, 5-9, 16, 17, 19-35, 37, and 39. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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